

Urge Arsenal As Atom Lab Site

DuPage Citizens Seek To Block Lemont Plan

Joliet arsenal is a suitable site for location of the atomic research laboratory it is proposed to build in the Chicago area.

That was the opinion expressed by some of the more than 350 delegates who last night, at Wheaton, charged that "politics" dictated proposed location of the Argonne National laboratory in DuPage county.

The group, by an overwhelming vote, adopted a resolution which opposes location of the atomic plant in DuPage county. A copy of the resolution will be forwarded to Sen. Bourke Hickenlooper (R-Ia) who is chairman of the joint congressional committee on atomic energy.

LOCKPORT residents, including Joseph Corpilo, president of the Lockport Civic and Commerce association; Bruce D. Cheadle, secretary of the association and its affiliate, the Des Plaines Valley Association; and William J. Barrett and Charles Seaborg, attended the meeting. Both groups have gone on record as being against the proposed location. The gathering was called by the DuPage County Council for Public Affairs.

"For what appear to be purely political reasons," the resolution charged, the construction of the plant in DuPage county has been proposed "by numerous bureaus of the federal government, at a cost of several millions of dollars."

"The government already owns other land, that has been stated by a representative of the Argonne laboratories to be surplus and available, and satisfactory from every scientific standpoint," the resolution charged, referring to the Joliet arsenal land near Elwood.

OTHER OBJECTIONS to the laboratory site raised at last night's Wheaton gathering were possible hazards of experimental work on the atom in a suburban area; the effect of plant location on the county's housing shortage; and the danger to the water supply of the West Suburban district, where the water-table has fallen sufficiently to create a problem.

A dissenting voice was raised at last night's meeting, however, when Dr. W. G. Reeder, prominent Wheaton physician, declared that the group had become "too one-sided" in its attitude toward the proposed location of the Argonne laboratory in DuPage county.

"I feel that perhaps we are losing sight of the fact that these laboratories are being built for medical research purposes," Dr. Reeder declared, as he expressed his belief that the government had already given careful consideration to the plant location problem and had settled on DuPage county, as a site, for good reasons.

OFFICIALS of the Argonne laboratory, invited to attend last night's meeting, had declined on the ground that information might be secured at the Chicago offices. Phil C. Dickinson, Downers Grove council chairman, disclosed, in reading two letters — invitation and reply. The council had sought opinion on how much of the West Suburban area's water supply would be diverted to the laboratory's needs.

J. Walter Scott, physicist employed by the Western Electric company, said apparently there is no danger in location of the plant, but expressed the belief it is unwise to locate such a plant in a heavily-populated area such as DuPage county.

George F. Bode, Lombard, member of the county board of realtors

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(Continued from Page One)

and executive secretary of the Illinois Board of Realtors, explained the DuPage County council was formed to act as a liaison group for all smaller groups interested in the Argonne laboratory location problem.

State Rep. Lottie Holman O'Neill, Downers Grove, was handed a copy of the resolution at last night's meeting, and another copy will be sent to Anthony A. Olis, chairman of Gov. Green's committee on lake water diversion.

(Continued on Page Two)